

[Upcoming Courses and Events \(see page 7 for ongoing classes\)](#)

● **Building Bridges: Temple Sinai and Israel (sponsored by the Israel Committee).**

Instructor Rabbi Golan Ben-Chorin

Description This highly successful initiative that began in 2020 will continue with 5 sessions in 2023. Sessions will be led live from Israel by Rabbi Golan-Ben Chorin of Haifa. The theme is “God From an Israeli Perspective.” Topics might include Messianism in Israel, Hebrew as holy language or daily communication, the God that divides Israeli Jews from their counterparts around the world, God in the Israeli ethos, etc.

Dates 5 Sundays: January 8, February 12, March 5, April 2 and May 21, 9:30 am – 10:50 am.
(Zoom only)

Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89710448257?pwd=RitzR1ZYN2U2K3Z5R0RMM0dTWkMxUT09>
(The same Zoom link is used for all sessions).

Bio Rabbi Golan Ben-Chorin Ed.D. is a third-generation Israeli Reform spiritual leader. An entrepreneurial educator, he has served congregations in Europe, the US and Israel, where he is pioneering inclusive, egalitarian Judaism. He recently produced twelve short movies on spiritual renewal in his home town of Haifa as a way to help address the challenges of the coronavirus. He is currently the rabbi of a startup community in Herzliya and has founded "Finding North – 30 days of inspiration and discovery in Haifa."



● **Queer Torah Study (sponsored by the Rainbow Committee)**

Instructor Ben Gerson

Description Our study will affirm our journey as LGBTQ Jewish individuals and allies in the context of our sacred text. As we gather together, we will be provided with texts that celebrate identity as well as those that can challenge our current sensibilities. There are a variety of Torah passages that have been used to emphasize the dignity and worth of LGBTQ Jews while others have been used to denigrate them. In light of modern biblical scholarship, it is important for us to recognize how these texts have been used in their historical context and how we can make sense of them through the nuance of language. All are welcome to join us in Ehrenfried Hall on 4 Shabbatot (1 in the fall and 3 in the winter-spring), followed by Havdalah. Light refreshments will be provided.

Dates 3 Saturdays: January 7, March 4, and May 6, 5:00 pm **(in-person only)**.

Bio Ben Gerson is originally from Marblehead and lives in Cambridge, MA with his husband Kevin. He received his education from Goucher College and completed his Masters of Teaching at Salem State University. He is a middle and high school teacher at a local private school where he teaches Spanish and American History. He also teaches 6th grade pre-B’nai Mitzvah students at Temple Sinai. In his spare time Josh enjoys music, specifically playing classical piano and klezmer accordion.



Temple Sinai Adult Jewish Learning Schedule: January – June 2023

- **Cinema@Sinai**

Coordinator Amos Lassen

Description This popular series continues in 2023 with a selection of films chosen by Temple member and film connoisseur Amos Lassen. We may even go back to providing (individually packaged) snacks!

Date/Time	Film
Saturday, 1/21, 7:30 pm	“The Women’s Balcony” (2016; Hebrew with English subtitles). The women’s balcony crashes down during a bar mitzvah, and the ensuing events lead to a rift in the community.
Saturday, 2/11, 7:30 pm	“Au Revoir Les Enfants” (1987; French with English subtitles). An established student in a Catholic boarding school learns that a new boy is a Jew whom the priests are hiding from the Nazis.
Saturday, 3/4, 7:30 pm	“The Other Son” (2012, multiple languages with English subtitles). Two young men, one Israeli and one Palestinian, discover they were accidentally switched at birth.
Saturday, 4/8, 7:30 pm	“The Highway Queen” (1971; Hebrew with English subtitles). Margalit, a prostitute on the outskirts of Tel Aviv, picks a married man to father her second child.
Saturday, 5/6, 7:30 pm	“Three Mothers” (2006; Hebrew with English subtitles). Triplets Rose, Flora and Yasmin, born in Egypt but living in Israel, recount memories, confront their past, and attempt to come to terms with family secrets.
Saturday, 6/3, 7:30 pm	“The Settlers” (2016; English and Hebrew with English subtitles) A documentary offering a comprehensive historical and geopolitical view of the Jewish settlers in the occupied territories of the West Bank.

Dates See above schedule. All films will be **in person only** in the Weintraub Community room.

- **14th Annual Jewish Poetry Festival & Tu B’Shevat Tasting Seder**

Coordinator Deborah Leipziger

Moderator Larry Lowenthal

Description Join us for our 14th annual Jewish Poetry Festival with readings and learning on Tu B’Shevat and trees, followed by a Tu B’Shevat Tasting Seder. In addition to poetry, the afternoon will feature photography and science in celebration of Tu B’shevat.

Our featured poets will be Jenny Barber, Deb Leipziger and Gail Mazur. Several poets will read poems about trees from the poetry anthology, *Tree Lines*. Prof. Dan Perlman of Brandeis University will be sharing reflections on the nature of trees.

Date Sunday February 5, 2:00 pm (**Zoom and in person**)

Zoom link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89875682076?pwd=Smg5VFdReGRoUG1JUGQzcWIEL21PUT09>

Bios

Gail Mazur is the founder of the Blacksmith House Poetry Series, one of the oldest on-going reading series in the country. Her recent poetry collections include *Land’s End: New and Selected Poems* (2020), *Forbidden City* (2016) and *Figures in a Landscape* (2011). She has taught widely and is the recipient of numerous grants and awards.



Jennifer Barber is the Poet Laureate of Brookline, Mass. Her new collection is *The Sliding Boat Our Bodies Made* (Word Works, 2022). Her previous collections are *Works on Paper* (Word Works), *Given Away* (Kore Press), and *Rigging the Wind*. She served as chief of the literary journal *Salamander*, based at Suffolk University, from 1992 to 2018. Among Jennifer’s favorite trees are oaks, copper beeches, and Japanese maples.



Temple Sinai Adult Jewish Learning Schedule: January – June 2023

Deborah Leipziger is an author, poet, and advisor on sustainability. Her chapbook, *Flower Map*, was published by Finishing Line Press. Born in Brazil, Ms. Leipziger is the author of several books on sustainability. Nominated four times for a Pushcart Prize, Deborah's poems have been published in eight countries, in publications including in *Pangyrus*, *Salamander*, *Revista Cardenal*, and *Lily Poetry Review*. Her collection of poems, *Story & Bone*, is forthcoming from Lily Poetry Review Book in January 2023. Among Deborah's favorite trees are ginkgoes, aspens, and weeping cherries.



Dan Perlman has taught Biology and Environmental Studies at Brandeis since 2001. He has taught numerous courses in ecology, environmental studies, and conservation biology, but is especially proud of co-developing and co-teaching two writing-intensive, field-based programs: the year-long *Conservation Biology and Biodiversity* seminar at Harvard University, which he taught for nine years, and the Brandeis *Environmental Field Semester*, a five-course integrated semester. He earned a Ph.D. from Harvard's Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology.



- **Wexner Lecture: The Israeli Legal System**

Instructor Nitzan Wulkan

Description This lecture will focus on the Israeli criminal legal system. With a broad background and wide variety of experiences, Nitzan Wulkan has an in-depth understanding of the system and processes.

Ms. Wulkan is one of ten Wexner scholarship recipients currently attending class at the Harvard/Kennedy School of Government. Participants in this program have frequently spoken at Temple Sinai.

Date Sunday, February 12, 11:00 am (**Zoom and in person in the Weintraub Community room**).

Zoom link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81757082686?pwd=SVpwRE1pcU0vcGswTTJDZ2NqYmdSQTO9>

Bio Wexner scholarship recipient Nitzan Wulkan is a senior prosecutor and head of financial enforcement in the securities department at the Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office, where she leads high-profile financial criminal and corruption cases. She began as a law clerk for two Israeli Supreme Court justices, Justice E.E. Levy and Justice Uzi Vogelman, and later worked as a private defense lawyer representing defendants in white-collar crime cases.



Temple Sinai Adult Jewish Learning Schedule: January – June 2023

• Annual Scholar-In-Residence Weekend

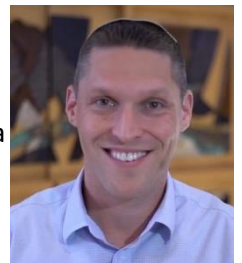
Lecturer Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz

Description Our 2023 scholar-in-residence is Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz, who will join us on 3 occasions in early March. His theme will be “Jewish Responses to Living in a Broken World.”

Dates

- Thursday, March 2, 10:15 am – 11:45 am: Rabbi Vogel’s Thursday study group
- Friday, March 3, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm: Rabbi Yanklowitz will give a d’var Torah with a Q&A session as part of Shabbat services.
- Sunday, March 5, 11:00 am – noon (exact time tbd): study session and interactive discussion.

Bio Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz is the author of 14 books, and is the President and Dean of Valley Beit Midrash, Founder and President of Uri L’Tzedek, Founder and CEO of The Shamayim V’Aretz Institute, and Founder and President of YATOM: The Jewish Foster and Adoption Network. As a global social justice activist and educator, Rabbi Yanklowitz has volunteered, and taught in multiple countries, including Israel, Ghana, India, France, Thailand, El Salvador, England, Senegal, Germany, Switzerland, Ukraine, Argentina, South Africa, and Haiti. He has also served as a rabbinic representative, facilitator, and speaker at the World Economic Forum in Geneva and Davos. Rabbi Shmuly’s religious journey was filmed in the Independent Lens/PBS documentary [The Calling](#).



Rabbi Shmuly earned a master's degree from Harvard University in Leadership and Psychology, another master's from Yeshiva University in Jewish Philosophy, and a doctorate from Columbia University in Moral Development and Epistemology. He obtained rabbinical ordination from the Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School and two additional, private ordinations in Israel.

• Dissecting Hebrew Prayers

Instructor Robin Orwant

Description Have you always wanted to better understand the prayers we recite at services? Join us for this five-week course on the basics of prayerbook Hebrew! We'll delve into Hebrew vocabulary and grammar to gain new insights into some familiar prayers that are part of the Jewish liturgy. Knowledge of the alef-bet is a plus, but even if you have not mastered the Hebrew letters, this class is for you!.

Dates 5 Sundays: March 5, 12, 19, 26, and April 2, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm (**Zoom and onsite in the Weintraub Community Room**)

Zoom link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83035764111?pwd=SFFkempGamxrUTUzWnp2YXZLbEV0UT09>

Bio **Robin Orwant** has taught multiple classes at Temple Sinai, including courses on the Haftarah, chanting Torah, and summer courses, with Jeremy Wolfe, on a variety of biblical texts. She has also been responsible for teaching Hebrew to the members of Temple Sinai’s recent Adult B’nai Mitzvah classes.



Temple Sinai Adult Jewish Learning Schedule: January – June 2023

- **Our Will to Live (Part 2)**

Instructors Mark Ludwig, Dr. Anna Ornstein

Description Continuing their class from last November, Terezin Music Foundation director Mark Ludwig and Holocaust survivor and distinguished psychoanalyst Dr. Anna Ornstein will draw from their books [Our Will To Live](#) and [My Mother's Eyes](#) to explore the role of the arts as a vehicle of hope and survival during the Shoah, and how that applies in our world today. Dr. Ornstein will share readings and insights from *My Mother's Eyes*, her published memoir. This class promises to be as insightful and fascinating as part 1.

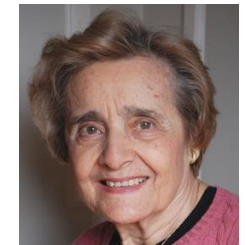
Dates Sunday, March 12, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm (**Zoom only**)

Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83801117588?pwd=cTNZQUhocnU1YWhTUW9Nb0hoS2pCQT09>

Bio Temple member **Mark Ludwig** is a performance artist, activist and Holocaust scholar. He blends his musical and scholarly career with social causes, emphasizing issues of intolerance in the United States and Europe. He performs and lectures worldwide on Holocaust music and its history. A Fulbright scholar of the Terezín composers, Mark is the founding director of the Terezín Music Foundation (TMF), dedicated to documenting, preserving and advancing the resilience of the human spirit (www.terezinmusic.org).



Anna Ornstein, M.D., is Professor Emerita of Child Psychiatry, University of Cincinnati, Co-Director, International Center for the Study of Psychoanalytic Self-Psychology, and Lecturer in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Anna says “As a Holocaust survivor, I am deeply concerned with the survival of the memory of this catastrophic event. It is my conviction that survival of any historical event can be assured only when such events become transformed into various forms of art. There are indications that such a transformation is currently in process in all forms of art: in poetry, fiction, films, the visual arts, dance and music.”



- **Cubism and Judaism**

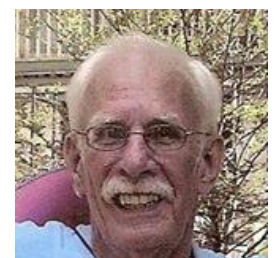
Instructor Amos Lassen

Description Cubism is often considered to be the seminal art movement of the twentieth century and engendered a pictorial revolution through a radical approach to image-making as well as influencing the fields of literature, photography, music, fashion and philosophy. Jews flocked to the new movement, and we will look at several of these Jewish thinkers and their influence on modern Jewish thought.

Date 3 Sundays: March 19, 26, April 2, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm (**Zoom only**)

Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84164761010?pwd=dkFYS25PcTArYnJleDZON2ViVVphQT09>

Bio Temple member Amos Lassen moved to Brookline in May 2012 after having spent 7 years in Arkansas when Hurricane Katrina changed his plans for a two-year visiting professorship in New Orleans. He lived in Israel for many years. Amos has taught at the Hebrew University, the University of New Orleans and the University of Central Arkansas. He grew up in the Young Judaea movement in New Orleans.



Temple Sinai Adult Jewish Learning Schedule: January – June 2023

- **Hollywood and Israel**

Instructor Larry Lowenthal

Description In this course we will study the cultural, diplomatic, and political relationship between Hollywood — the most powerful entertainment industry in the world — and the state of Israel.

We will look closely at the controversial films Hollywood has made about Israel, from "Sword in the Desert" in 1949, to "Exodus" in 1960, to "Munich" in 2005, as well as the key role played by Hollywood stars and studio executives in fostering support--and occasional criticism- of Israel in the American government, in the public media, and the minds and hearts of people all over the world.

Dates 3 Sundays: April 9, 16, and 23, 11:10 am – 12:30 pm (**Zoom and in person**)

Zoom link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89887146591?pwd=bjJFOEM5MEtESDgwM2xweFpzL1I6UT09>

Bio Dr. Lawrence D. Lowenthal received his Ph.D. in Literature from New York University and taught at Washington State University, Gettysburg College, Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University. For 20 years he served as New England Director of the American Jewish Committee. After his retirement, he taught in the Jewish Studies Department of Northeastern University for 7 years.



- **Exploring the Untold Stories of the Holocaust**

(Special Thursday Morning class during Rabbi Vogel's spring 2023 sabbatical)

Instructor Staci Rosenthal

Description Survivors of the Holocaust have been sharing their experiences for decades. With the additional help of historians, filmmakers, writers, and teachers, the Holocaust has become mainstreamed in American Jewish life. But what are its lesser-known stories? How do they add to our understanding of this time, and what efforts are historians taking to incorporate them into the larger narratives we tell of the Holocaust? In honor of Yom Hashoah (April 2023), these three sessions will explore topics otherwise not usually discussed in Holocaust history or education, and the ways they influence how we talk about the Holocaust today.

Dates 3 Thursdays: April 13, 20, and 27, 10:15 am – 11:45 am (**Zoom and in person**)

Zoom link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86001154666?pwd=RnU5VFZWZWhxVIZtOVRsalhkUkorUT09>

Bio Staci Rosenthal received her master's in science from Boston University's Medical Campus, where she researched women who became pregnant during the Holocaust. She is now a Senior Program Associate on the Jewish Education team at Facing History and Ourselves and has been providing professional development for teachers in Jewish settings across the country since 2016. She is very passionate about Jewish Education and brings her love of teaching to Temple Sinai, where she currently teaches the 6th and 7th grade students.



Ongoing Classes

- **Shabbat Morning Torah Study**

with Rabbi Andy Vogel

Twice a month on Shabbat mornings, Temple Sinai members gather to discuss the ideas presented by the week's Torah portion. We begin with a bit of singing and then study the text in English. You need not have any prior study of the Torah or Hebrew knowledge, simply an interest in considering the Torah portion as it relates to our contemporary experiences or those of Jews in previous generations. All are welcome for this friendly exchange of Jewish ideas! Come just once to try it out.

Note that during Rabbi Vogel's sabbatical from early April through June 2023, other instructors, will lead the class. Stay tuned for details.

*2nd & 4th Saturday mornings of each month at 9:00 am, starting September 10. **Zoom and in person.***
The Zoom link is publicized a few days in advance.

- **Thursday Morning Study**

with Rabbi Andy Vogel

Join us each Thursday for a lively and friendly class with Rabbi Vogel. We study a wide variety of topics, rotating to a new field of study about every six weeks or so. Thursday Study includes discussions, films, text study, and an occasional guest speaker. Join us each Thursday or feel free to drop in just once! All are welcome.

Note that during Rabbi Vogel's sabbatical from early April through June 2023, other instructors will lead the class. Stay tuned for details.

*Every Thursday, 10:15-11:45 a.m., starting October 27. **Zoom and on-site.*** Call or email the temple office to be added to the distribution list for information about the session and each week's Zoom link.

- **Daf Shevui - Talmud Study Group**

This group gathers for an hour on Sunday mornings to discuss a page of Talmud each week. **Zoom only.** Contact karen.keely@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the email list to receive weekly details about the next meeting.